

member is provided with a protrusion portion which protrudes from an outer side, in a thickness direction of the plate, from said plate of said extruded frame member, and extends beyond the at least one end portion of the width, in a direction of the width; and

said protrusion portion extends substantially in parallel to said at least one end portion of said plate of said extruded frame member.

3. (Amended) An extruded frame member for use in friction stir welding, said extruded frame member including a plate having a width and a length, the length extending in an extruded direction, wherein:

a face of one side of the plate, at at least one end portion of the width of the extruded frame member, is provided with a triangular shaped groove.

4. (Amended) The extruded frame member according to claim 3, wherein:

in said at least one end portion, a protrusion portion is provided which protrudes from said face of the one side of the plate, in a thickness direction of said extruded frame member; and

said triangular shaped groove is provided to a face of an outer side of said protrusion portion, which faces in a same direction as said face of the one side of the plate.

Please add the following new claims to the application:

5. The extruded frame member according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion portion has an inner face of a part of said protrusion portion extending beyond the at least one end portion of the width, said inner face being opposite to an opposed face which faces in a same direction as said outer side of said plate, and wherein there is a gap between an extension of said outer side of said plate and said inner face, in the thickness direction.

6. The extruded frame member according to claim 1, wherein said extruded frame member is adapted to be friction stir welded to another frame member, with a part of the protrusion portion extending beyond the at least one end portion of the width overlapping said another frame member during the friction stir welding.

7. The extruded frame member according to claim 1, wherein said at least one end portion has an end face which is exposed, and wherein said protrusion portion extends above said end face, and beyond said end face in the direction of the width.

8. The extruded frame member according to claim 2, wherein the protrusion portion has two ends in the direction of the width, and wherein a distance between one end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in the direction of the width, is substantially the same as a distance between the other end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in the direction of the width.

9. The extruded frame member according to claim 4, wherein the protrusion portion has two ends in the direction of the width, and wherein a distance between one end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in the direction of the width, is substantially the same as a distance between the other end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in the direction of the width.

10. The extruded frame member according to claim 4, wherein the protrusion portion has two ends in the direction of the width, and wherein said protrusion portion extends beyond said at least one end portion in a direction of the width.

11. The extruded frame member according to claim 10, wherein a distance between one end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in

the direction of the width, is substantially the same as a distance between the other end of the protrusion portion and the triangular shaped groove, in the direction of the width.

12. The extruded frame member according to claim 4, wherein said at least one end portion has an end face, and wherein said triangular shaped groove is provided to the face of the outer side of the protrusion portion over said end face.

13. The extruded frame member according to claim 3, which is capable of being friction stir welded to another frame member at said at least one end portion.--